

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Ji *et al.*

Group Art Unit: 1619

Serial No.: 10/507,452

Examiner: Wheeler, Thurman Michael

Filed: April 12, 2005

Docket No.: 1547/3

Confirmation No.: 1381

For: HYDROPHILIC POLYMER DERIVATIVE WITH Y TYPE BRANCH AND PREPARATION
METHOD OF IT MEDICAL COMPOSITE COMPRISING ABOVE COMPOUND

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION/ELECTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is responsive to the Restriction/Election Requirement dated March 23, 2010, having a shortened statutory period for response that expires on April 23, 2010. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested in view of the following Election and Remarks.

RESTRICTION PRESENTED

The claims have been restricted into the following three groups of inventions:

Groups	Claims	Subject Matter
I	1-5, 7-9, 13, 15-30, 36-49, 52, 53, 57, and 58	Drawn to a Y-shaped branched hydrophilic polymer derivative.
II	6, 50, 51, 54-56, and 59	Drawn to a Y-shaped branched polyethylene glycol polymer derivative.
III	10-12, 31-35	Drawn to methods to prepare PEG derivatives.

The Patent Office has further requested that the applicants provisionally elect a single species specifying each of the variables of claim 1, 4, or 5 if Group I is elected or of claim 6 if Group II is elected. Additionally, the Patent Office has requested that the applicants provisionally elect a single species of conjugate where the drug (species) is selected from the group consisting of: (a) amino acids, (b) proteins, (c) enzymes, (d) nucleosides, (e) saccharides, (f) organic acids, (g) glycosides, (h) flavonoids, (i) anthraquinones, (j) terpenoids, (k) phenylpropanoid phenols, (l) steroids, (m) glycoside of the steroids, and (n) alkaloids of the steroids.

APPLICANTS' ELECTION

Applicants hereby elect the invention of Group I, claims 1-5, 7-9, 13, 15-30, 36-49, 52, 53, 57, and 58, drawn to a Y-shaped branched hydrophilic polymer derivative, for prosecution at this time. Applicants hereby reserve the right to file one or more divisional patent applications directed to the unelected subject matter.

Applicants further provisionally elect the single species of formula (I) of claim 1 wherein:

P_a and P_b are each a polyethylene glycol (e.g., a methoxyl polyethylene glycol derivative);

j is 1;

R_i is H;

X_1 is $(CH_2)_n$, wherein n is 2;